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Revised Camping and Occupancy Regulations for Public Lands

Lakewood, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management is amending supplementary rules for camping on BLM lands in Colorado. These rules extend the time period and distance campers must move once the current 14-day stay limit is reached. These rules go in to effect July 12, 2010.

The amended language increases the distance campers must move after reaching the 14-day limit from three to 30 miles. It further amends the departure time frame by increasing it from seven to 30 days, once the 14-day limit has been reached. Additional language is included to limit the occurrence of unattended campsites that are being established for the purpose of securing campsite locations for later use. These supplementary rules apply to all BLM lands in Colorado.

“These rules go a long way in our efforts to effectively reduce the impact of long-term camping and illegal occupancy on public lands,” BLM Chief Ranger John Bierk said. “We hope these rules will resolve any inconsistency or confusion that existed in the past with respect to camping and occupancy on public lands.”

The current camping regulations, published in 1990, limit campers on any site to 14-days. After 14 days have passed, the camper must either leave the site or move to a new site more than three miles away for at least seven days before they can return. Unfortunately, a number of users took advantage of the existing language and established long-term residency under the pretext of camping. These uses often interfere with legitimate recreation use of public lands, create sanitation and other health concerns, cause damage to the resources by illegal campfires, vegetation trampling, vehicle use, trash dumping, and pose public dangers.

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